

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable storage medium, which is readable with a computer, wherein the portable storage medium stores:
 - information used to certify access to a remote computer from a local computer in which the storage medium is mounted; and
 - a program used to utilize a remote storage device, managed by the remote computer, as a virtual auxiliary memory of the local computer, said program being a computer-readable client program that executes the procedures of:
 - being driven as soon as the portable storage medium is mounted to the local computer;
 - determining whether the local computer is connected to a network;
 - reading location information of the remote computer from the storage medium and then connecting the local computer to the remote computer when the local computer is connected to the network;
 - reading said certification information from the storage medium and transmitting said certification information to the remote computer; and
 - registering the remote storage device as an auxiliary memory of the local computer when access to the remote computer is allowed.
2. The portable storage medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said registering the remote storage device includes:
 - setting a drive to operate the remote storage device in the local computer; and
 - designating an identifier for the drive on a searching interface of the local computer.
3. The portable storage medium as claimed in claim 1, wherein said program further automatically connects the local computer to the network when the local computer is not connected to the network.
4. The portable storage medium as claimed in claim 2, wherein the certification information defines an address to designate a specific storage area of the remote storage device.

5. The portable storage medium as claimed in claim 4, wherein the identifier is selected among identifiers that are currently not used by the local computer.

6. The portable storage medium as any of claim 1, wherein the portable storage medium is a mini compact disk.

7. A method of utilizing a remote storage device on a network as a virtual auxiliary memory of a local computer using a portable storage medium storing certification information and a computer-readable program, the method comprising:

inserting the portable storage medium into a corresponding drive of the local computer;

driving the program;

checking with the program whether the local computer is connected to the network;

connecting the local computer to a remote computer, which manages the remote storage device, when the local computer is connected to the network;

reading the certification information from the storage medium and transmitting the certification information to the remote computer;

allowing access of the local computer to the remote storage device on the basis of the certification information; and

registering the remote storage device as an auxiliary memory of the local computer.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the certification information defines an address to designate a specific storage area of the remote storage device.

9. The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the remote storage device comprises a plurality of storage areas, each of which corresponds to certification information of portable storage media including the portable storage medium.

10. The method as claimed in claim 9, further comprising:
when the access to the remote storage device is allowed on the basis of the certification information,

setting a drive to operate the remote storage device in the local computer;

and

designating an identifier for the drive on a searching interface of the local computer.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising downloading data from the remote storage device to the local computer or uploading data from the local computer to the remote storage device.

12. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
in the remote computer which receives the certification information,
determining whether there is a storage area corresponding to the certification information in the remote storage device;
determining whether a storage capacity remains in the storage area and whether a valid term is not expired, when the corresponding storage area exists; and
allowing access to the remote storage device when the storage capacity remains and the valid term is not expired.

13. The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising automatically connecting the local computer to the network when the local computer is determined to not be connected to the network by said checking with the program.

14. A method on a network, comprising:
storing a computer-readable program in a portable storage medium;
allowing a user to insert the portable storage medium into a local computer; and
using the computer-readable program,
having the local computer communicate with a remote computer through the network, wherein the remote computer comprises a remote storage device, and
operating the remote storage device as a virtual auxiliary memory of the local computer.

15. The portable storage medium as any of claim 2, wherein the portable storage medium is a mini compact disk.

16. The portable storage medium as any of claim 3, wherein the portable storage medium is a mini compact disk.

17. The portable storage medium as any of claim 4, wherein the portable storage medium is a mini compact disk.

18. The portable storage medium as any of claim 5, wherein the portable storage medium is a mini compact disk.

1571.1003/JDH/JGM